



Harbinger

MAY and JUNE 2005 VOL. 19 NO. 3

With the feverish pace that many individuals and families set for themselves, it can be very difficult to slow down and enjoy life. Even more of a quandary is trying to find something fun and relaxing to do to satisfy our yearning to share meaningful experiences with others. Fishing can be a wonderful answer to this dilemma! Not only can fishing help to lower stress levels, but it can provide other health benefits by simply getting us off our couches and out of our houses to experience nature. Also, the bonding and fun shared among friends and family members can create memories that will be treasured for a lifetime.

There is something relaxing, yet very exciting about fishing that is difficult to duplicate by any of the media-type recreations that many people typically engage in. The feeling of a gentle breeze on your face, listening to a chorus of frogs, and the soft lapping of water upon the shore bring tranquility to the soul. On the other hand, the rush and excitement of feeling a tug on the end of the line and the feeling of pride after wrestling a big bass to the boat or the bank are really hard to beat!

Missourians are fortunate to have not only bass, but about forty other species of fish targeted by anglers, not to mention all of the terrific lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds that are available to us. Here in the Springfield area we are lucky to be within driving distance of many of these places such as the James and Finley Rivers; Fellows, Stockton, and Table Rock Lakes; and Lake Springfield. So, plan a fishing trip soon! Get your resident fishing license for \$12 (if you're between the ages of 16-64) then pack up your family or friends and make some special memories.

While I don't have any particular childhood memories of any specific time that I spent with my family watching television or going to a movie, I have plenty of great fishing memories. From being chased by an unhappy snapping turtle that unwittingly ate my bait to watching with amusement as my grandfather's fishing pole was yanked into the river by a colossal catfish, I treasure all of my childhood memories of fishing. Although my grandparents are gone now, I continue to make more fishing memories with my father and son. Thanks, Dad, for taking me fishing!

~~Kim Banner

Show-Me Missouri Fish!



Drop by the nature center anytime from 8am to 9pm on Wednesday, June 22, through Sunday, June 26, to view the *Show-me Missouri Fish* Mobile Aquarium. This 3,200 gallon aquarium showcases up to 25 different species of native Missouri fish and provides onlookers with a cut-away slice of the aquatic world. Periodic aquatic education seminars, fishing demonstrations, and fish identification programs will be held throughout each day. (Call for more details.) Make plans to attend Family Fishing Fun on Saturday, June 25, from 10am to 3pm, or one of the other fishing-related programs showcased in this newsletter to get everyone--young and old alike--hooked on fishing! (See events page for more details about these programs.)

The View From The Bridge

Last year a lady stopped by the front desk and asked me, "When on earth do you ever work on your trails?" Thinking she was voicing a concern about the deteriorating condition of some of the trails, I began to formulate a response in my mind with explanations about how busy we are with visitors and about the staffing and budgetary constraints we face. Before I could answer, however, she continued with, "Do you work on the trails after dark with spotlights?" Wow! I was surprised by that comment. She loved the trails and thought they were in good condition, but having never seen them closed for work, she assumed trail maintenance was done at night.

While we *do* have an extremely dedicated group of maintenance workers, outside maintenance work at night just isn't an option. (However, the majority of the *building* maintenance is done at night when visitors are gone.) Some of you have experienced times when trails were closed for short periods of time for safety reasons during flooding events or when the maintenance workers were removing hazardous trees. On other occasions, portions of the trails were closed for longer periods of time when extensive work was done to construct boardwalks in sensitive areas like the newer addition along Galloway Creek. We realize that closing the trails for any period of time is inconvenient for the many visitors who love visiting the area. Sometimes, however, it is necessary.

Sometime this summer, work will begin on replacing the deteriorating logs used as retaining walls along many of the trails. Rotting logs are doing little to hold back the soil and are exposing rebar, which is used to hold the logs in place, creating a potential safety hazard. In an effort to avoid closing trails again in the future to periodically replace logs, we are looking at using recycled materials that are both long lasting and environmentally safe. The work will begin first on Sycamore Cutoff where the need is greatest. During this construction phase, the trail will need to be closed so equipment can move easily and work can be done quickly. As always, the length of closure will depend a great deal on the weather. Advance notice of any trail closing will be sent to the media. For your safety and the safety of workers, please honor trail closings posted at the trailhead.

We apologize now for any inconvenience you may experience this summer. With well over 250,000 people walking our trails annually, there is never a convenient time to work on the trails.

We feel confident that the end result will be well worth the temporary inconvenience. And, please note, that lighting the trails up at night like a highway will never be an option.

Linda
Linda F. Chorice,
Nature Center Manager

The Springfield Conservation Nature Center is located in southeast Springfield just west of US-65 off the James River Freeway (US-60). The area is open daily 8am to 9pm from March 1 to October 31, and 8am to 6pm during the remainder of the year. The building is open daily from 8am to 5pm year 'round. The building and area are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. The area is closed to pets, bicycles, roller blades, hunting, fishing, collecting, and alcoholic beverages. No fees are charged.

Phone: 417/888-4237 Fax: 417/888-4241 <www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/springfd>

The Nature Nook

Gift Shop

20% Off



Butterflies & Moths of Missouri

Heritage card discount does not apply.

There are as many species of butterflies and moths in Missouri as there are plants. With 833 color photographs and descriptions of 324 species of butterflies and moths, this is the perfect guide for both experienced and amateur lepidopterists. 385 pages. 1996. Soft cover.

Discounted price: \$11.20 plus tax.

Thank You

We wish to thank Muriel Beckett, Benjamin Burks, and Thersa Johnson for their donations of natural objects; Becky Matthews for donating a book; and Kattie Satterfield for her donation of a bow and arrows. Thanks to Roy Criswell and Todd Woltz for contributing their time to our January Evening Stroll. Thank you to Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World for the use of bison and elk mounts and to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield for the use of lanterns for our Lewis and Clark Family Fun Night.

Temporary Display

May/June

Outdoor Writers Association of America/ Nikon Traveling Photo Exhibit

Experience nature through the eyes of photographers who spend countless hours capturing the beauty of the world around us. The OWAA is the voice of the outdoors—an organization of more than 1,800 professional outdoor communicators. The exhibit includes photos of people enjoying outdoor recreational activities in five categories: scenic, flora, people, action, and fauna.

Ask The Naturalist

Seasonal changes spark many questions. In this section, we will answer some common questions about natural events.

I've been seeing a lot of box turtles lately. Do they make good pets?

Though they are easy to catch, it can be difficult to keep box turtles healthy in captivity. Box turtles have specific dietary and temperature requirements that must be met. Box turtles may live in captivity for extended periods but often times they experience a slow decline in health and ultimately die. If you want to keep a box turtle, it would be best to keep it for a few days or weeks then release it in the same spot where it was found. Before keeping a box turtle, be sure to get a book on proper care and feeding from your local library.

I've got a bird in my yard that keeps flying into the same window. What is going on and how do I get it to stop?

This time of the year many female birds are nesting and many males are defending territories. Sometimes when these males see their reflection in glass they believe it is another bird invading their territory and will try to drive it off. To deter the bird from crashing into your window, you should try to obscure its reflection. Temporarily taping newspaper to the outside of your windows or hanging strips of mylar (available at your local bird feeding store) nearby should stop the behavior.

There is a baby bird hopping around on the ground because it can't fly. I'm afraid it's been abandoned. What should I do?

The bird you're seeing is probably at the fledgling stage. When birds become fledglings they leave the nest even though they can't fly. The adult birds will continue to feed the fledgling on the ground until it learns to fly on its own. If you move the bird, you will be disturbing this natural process and you will greatly reduce the fledgling's chances of survival. It is during this fledgling stage that many young birds fall prey to predators. The best thing you can do to assist these young birds is to leave them alone and keep away household pets.

Chipping In . . . Mary Mangler

Plants and animals flourish all around us this time of year. If you don't take time to stop and take notice, you might be missing some of nature's wonders. In the Ozarks, hiking rates high on the list of outdoor activities and what takes some people minutes to hike, takes hours for others. While some people enjoy traveling *over* the terrain, there are others that notice and admire the natural beauty of things found along the way. That's exactly how Volunteer Naturalist Mary Mangler spends her time outdoors.



Growing up on a farm near Verona, Missouri, Mary spent countless hours as a kid piddling around the farm barefoot, dragging home sticks and unique rocks she found. Capturing nature on camera helped spark her interest to later study art, including painting and sculpting. She went on to work for the Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, Virginia. While her work with fine arts was meaningful, her love of the Ozarks guided her back to Missouri where her experience landed her a position in the art gallery at Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World.

Her interest in environmental issues motivated her to become active in conservation and to become a Volunteer Naturalist at the nature center in 2001. She treasures the time spent in a kayak collecting litter from the banks along Lake Springfield, Galloway Creek, and other areas. She also takes pleasure in getting her hands dirty when helping with garden work and assisting with special projects.

Her artistic background has given her an eye for detail. She sees beauty in what others walk by without even noticing. When hiking, she's often captivated by insects as she intrudes on their tiny world to further observe and explore their strange appearances and foreign behavior. Her eyes draw her to the natural beauty of wildflowers, oddly shaped rocks, and fossils along trails. There is so much to see and experience in the natural world that it's easy to miss much of it if we don't slow down and let our observational skills take over like Mary does. Her appreciation of what nature has to offer brings a smile to her face each time she sets foot outside.

Follow Mary's example and slow down on your next outdoor excursion. And if you see Mary working in a garden or in her kayak collecting litter, please be sure to thank her for chipping in.

Volunteer Milestones

Ruby Ball	2500 Hours	Mike Baird	200 Hours
Tracy Richter	500 Hours	Linda Brown	200 Hours
Shane Thomas	500 Hours	Kimberly Duquette	200 Hours
Mary Murphy	300 Hours	Jeannie Woltz	200 Hours
Larry Scriven	300 Hours	Pam Sales	100 Hours

Kids' Fishing Fun Day

Saturday, June 4, 8am-Noon

Sportsman's Park (2500 E. Kearney)

Kids love fishing! And here's a great chance for your child to have fun while learning more about fishing. Children, ages 3 to 13, will get the opportunity to fish in a specially stocked pond.

Participants need to bring their own equipment and bait. **Preregister for a fishing time** at either Bass Pro Shops, Springfield/ Greene County Park Board, or the nature center. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Kids' Fishing Day

Saturday, May 14, 6:30am-8:15pm

Roaring River Hatchery

& State Park

Call 417/847-2430 for details.

Kids' Fishing Day

Saturday, May 14, 6:30am-8:15pm

Bennett Spring Hatchery

& State Park

Call 417/532-4418
for details.

Family Fishing Fair

Saturday, June 11

10am-2pm

Shepherd of the Hills

Fish Hatchery

Call 417/334-4865
for details.

Free Fishing Weekend
June 11-12

PPSRT STD.
US Postage Paid
Jefferson City Mo
Permit 274

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Springfield Conservation Nature Center
Missouri Department of Conservation
4600 South Chrisman
Springfield, MO 65804-4931
Phone 417/888-4237
Fax: 417/888-4241
<<http://www.MissouriConservation.org>>



MAY EVENTS

REGISTRATION

Call the nature center at **417/888-4237** on or after May 1 to register for May programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

4 Warbler Walk

Wednesday, 8:30-11:30am

Join Volunteer Naturalists Charley Burwick and Mary Murphy to learn about these “butterflies of the bird world.” Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. Ages 12-adult. *Registration begins April 15.*

5 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Mothers

Thursday, 6-6:45pm

Mothers, we celebrate you during the month of May (and always). Bring your children, ages 0-2, for a guided nature walk. Bring a stroller and join the fun! *Registration begins April 15.*

6 Babes In The Woods Celebrates Mothers

Friday, 11-11:45am

[Same as May 5]

7 Hiking Club

Saturday, 8am-5pm

Join Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam for a spring day of hiking at Devil’s Backbone Wilderness. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is six miles and rated moderate to difficult. Pack a sack lunch, bring water, and wear sturdy, comfortable hiking shoes. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Hiked It . . . Liked It! Weekend Hike

Saturday, 9-11am

Enjoy a naturalist-guided hike. Families.



8 Intermediate Photography

Sunday, 1:30-4:30pm

This course will cover 35mm photography using nature as the primary subject. The workshop includes a lecture by Volunteer Naturalist Art Daniels and a photography session in the field. Bring a 35mm camera, film, lenses, and a tripod. Ages 15-adult. Registration required.

11 Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

Wednesday, 11-11:30am

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2-6 year olds.



Videos are shown every Sunday from 2-3pm.

14 Super Scout Saturday

Saturday, 10am-4pm

Attention: Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors; Tigers, Wolves, Bears, and Webelos; Camp Fire USA; and Royal Rangers.

Here’s an opportunity for the groups listed above to have fun learning while earning nature-oriented badges. Stations set up throughout the building will provide information and/or activities that will satisfy certain requirements for various badges. Mix and match stations to complete as many requirements as you like. Adult supervision is required. Call or stop by the nature center for more information.



15 Primitive Skills Series Flint Knapping

Sunday, 1-3pm

Volunteer Naturalist and primitive skills specialist Don Brink returns for another session. Watch him transform simple rocks into artistic and functional points similar to the ones used by early man for arrowheads and other tools. See the basics of flint knapping and try your hand at this age-old skill. Stop by anytime.

Summer Hummers

Sunday, 5-6:30pm

Hummingbirds have returned to the Ozarks! Join bird bander Sarah Driver as she talks about hummingbirds and attempts to capture and band some. Families. Registration required.

18 After Dinner Hike

Wednesday, 7-8pm

After dinner is just the right time to enjoy a breath of fresh air for dessert. Bring the entire family and enjoy a guided hike on the paved trails. All ages.

19 Babes In The Woods And Birds, Too

Thursday, 6-6:45pm

Bring your favorite 0-2 year old for a guided hike to introduce you and your child to the wonders of the spring woods and to the busy birds within them. Bring a stroller for this Boardwalk Trail hike. Registration required.

20 Hunter Education

Friday, 6-9pm and Saturday, 8am-5pm

This 10-hour course is required for anyone born after January 1, 1967, who wants to hunt with firearms in Missouri. This course is continued on Saturday from 8am to 5pm (lunch break given—lunch not provided). You must pass a written test to be certified. Ages 11-adult. *Call today to register.*

21 Conservation TEEN Club James River Float Trip

Saturday, 9am-Noon or 1-4pm

The James River is often overlooked when people think of good floating streams in the Ozarks. Along with fine fishing and wildlife sightings, the float also provides a view of Springfield few people have seen. We’ll start this float just below the Lake Springfield dam and explore a four-mile section of this urban stream. We will meet at the Tailwaters Access at the base of the dam. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

24 Conservation Kids’ Club Spring Symphony

Tuesday, 6:30-7:45pm

Sweet sounding bird songs fill the forests and fields with music and tell us that spring has arrived. But birds aren’t “just whistlin’ Dixie”—their songs have purpose and meaning. Come learn the lyrics to their melodies and find out what all the singing is about. (Dress for an outdoor hike.) Ages 7-12 years only. Please, no younger siblings. Registration required.

26 Hiking Club

Thursday, 6-9pm

Enjoy an evening hike with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam at Compton Hollow Conservation Area. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is an easy three miles. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

28 For Adults Only Canoeing Basics

Saturday, 9-11am or Noon-2pm

What better way to navigate your way through the Ozarks than by water? Gain your confidence in maneuvering a canoe by attending this hands-on workshop. We’ll cover different paddling strokes and steering techniques. Then, you’ll get a chance to practice your new skills and maneuver a canoe on Lake Springfield. Canoes, paddles, and life vests provided. Dress appropriately and be prepared to get wet. Meet at the Southwood Access on Lake Springfield. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.



Nectar Mixture

Mix four parts water with one part sugar and stir until dissolved. It is unnecessary to put red food coloring in the mixture since the red color of the feeder itself will attract the birds. You can leave the mixture in the feeder until it begins to turn cloudy.

Little Acorns

Little Acorns programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit **Little Acorns** programs to one per month. Registration required.

Other Mothers

Celebrate wild motherhood and learn about the special and important roles wild mothers play in nature. *Registration begins April 15.*

Thursday, May 5, 11am or 1pm

Saturday, May 7, 11am

Backyard Birds

Birds are interesting and fun to watch! “Fly” on over and discover what birds live here and possibly live around your house, too. Learn the calls of several birds and find out ways to attract them to your yard.

Thursday, May 19, 11am or 1pm

Saturday, May 21, 11am

Roly-Poly Roundup

Hey, partners, join in the roly-poly fun as Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan returns for this year’s roundup!

Friday, May 20, 11am or 1pm

JUNE

EVENTS

REGISTRATION

Call the nature center at **417/888-4237** on or after June 1 to register for June programs requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call to cancel so that someone on the waiting list may attend.

4 Hiked It . . . Liked It! Weekend Hike

Saturday, 9-11am

Enjoy a naturalist-guided hike. Families.



Hike-And-Seek On The Ozark Greenways Trail

Saturday, 10am-Noon

Spend a morning exploring a section of the Ozark Greenways Galloway Trail. Meet at the nature center and play hike-and-seek as you hike three miles. Answer nature-related questions along the way then return to the nature center to claim your prize. Families. Registration required.

Hiking Club

Saturday, 1-9pm

Prairies are at their showy best during June. Meet at the nature center and carpool to Prairie State Park to spend the afternoon with Volunteer Naturalist Mike Mihalik looking at the plants and animals that live there. Hike is six miles and rated moderate to difficult. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

5 Primitive Skills Series Fire And Flintstone

Sunday, 1-3pm

Volunteer Specialist Don Brink returns to demonstrate how to start fires without matches and butane. Different primitive fire-making techniques will be demonstrated. Afterwards, try your hand at starting a fire the primitive way. Ages 12-adult. Registration required.

7 Conservation TEEN Club Bushwhacker Camp Out

Tuesday, Noon to Wednesday, 3pm

Spend an evening on the prairie at Bushwhacker Lake Conservation Area. Pitch camp on a 1,200-acre prairie in the midst of prairie chickens, badgers, quail, and a host of other prairie fauna and flora. After exploring the prairie the first day, spend the second day fishing for lunch at Bushwhacker Lake. Additional information will be mailed to participants. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

8 Story Time With Ms. Ladybug

Wednesday, 11-11:30am

Join Volunteer Naturalist Joyce Tolliver as she reads a nature story and shares activities with your 2-6 year olds.



Videos are shown
every Sunday
from 2-3pm.

9 Archery For Beginners Thursday, 6-9pm

Learn the basics of archery and spend time practicing your new skills at the shooting range at Bois D'Arc Conservation Area. Meet at the range and you may bring your own gear, if you have it. Ages 11-adult. Registration required.

12 Summer Hummers Sunday, 5-6:30pm

Although hummingbirds may be a bit busy and out of sight during their current mating and nesting season, you can still enjoy an evening with Sarah Driver as she shares her knowledge about Missouri's smallest bird and attempts to capture and band some. Families. Registration required.

14 Tree Pest Clinic Tuesday, 10am-1pm

Do your trees have disease or insect problems? Bring infected twigs (at least 15" long), branches, or leaves to Urban Foresters for identification and a solution to your tree problems. Stop by anytime.

16 Hiking Club Thursday, 6-9pm

Enjoy an evening stroll with Volunteer Naturalist Doug Gilliam at Ritter Spring Park. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Hike is three miles and rated easy to moderate in difficulty. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Firefly Frolic Thursday, 8-9pm

Fireflies have intrigued and fascinated children and adults on countless summer evenings. Join Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan to learn everything you ever wanted to know about nature's "flashlights." Bring *your* flashlight and join the fun. Families. Registration required.

18 For Adults Only James River Float Trip Saturday, 8:30am-3pm

If you're a first-time or novice canoeist, this is a great chance "to get your feet wet." Come enjoy one of the best recreational pastimes the Ozarks has to offer. Pack a sack lunch and wear clothes you can get wet. Canoes, paddles, and life vests provided. Meet at the nature center and carpool. Ages 18-adult. Registration required.

Babes In The Woods Celebrates Fathers

Saturday, 11-11:45am

Fathers (and other favorite Big People), celebrate your special day with your children, ages 0-2, on a guided nature stroll. Bring a stroller and enjoy some special time outside with your babies! Registration required.

Family Fishing And Floating Saturday, 4-7:30pm

Bring your favorite fishing buddy for a canoe and fishing trip on Lake Springfield. We'll cover the basics of fishing, canoeing, and safety in the classroom before we head to the lake for a couple of hours of fishing. Fishing equipment, canoes, and life vests will be provided. Minimum of one adult per child per canoe. Fishing permits are required for everyone between the ages of 16 and 64. Ages 5-adult. Registration required.

19 Family Fishing And Floating Sunday, 4-7:30pm

[Same as June 18]

21 Babes In The Woods Celebrates The First Day Of summer

Tuesday, 11-11:45am or 6-6:45pm

Summer breezes make us feel fine as we go on a guided nature stroll to introduce you and your favorite 0-2 year old to the sweet days of summer. Bring a stroller. Registration required.

23 Conservation Kids' Club Somethin' Fishy Thursday, 7-8:30pm

Enjoy the Kids' Club meeting at a *special date and time* to learn about fish and fishing in the Ozarks. View the spectacular 3,200 gallon Show-me Missouri Fish Mobile Aquarium, discover fish habits and habitats, learn about fishing rules, and make your own fishy craft to take home. Ages 7-12 years only. Please, no younger siblings. Registration required.

25 Family Fishing Fun Saturday, 10am-3pm

Bring the entire family and spend a few hours learning about fish and fishing in the Ozarks. Enjoy fishing-related activities, fishy crafts and games, and other fun stuff. Regularly scheduled programs on fishing tips and techniques, fish ecology, and other related topics will take place around the 3,200 gallon Show-me Missouri Fish Mobile Aquarium. Drop by anytime to get "hooked" on fishing. Families.

Little Acorns

Little Acorns programs are for children 3-6 years and are 45-minutes in length. Please limit **Little Acorns** programs to one per month. Registration required.

Let's Go Camping

Camping can be fun for all ages! Join us at our indoor campsite to experience what it's like to spend a night in the woods. You'll sit in a tent, roast some pretend s'mores and gather 'round the campfire for a story.

Tuesday, June 14, 10am or 1pm

Nature's Nightlights

Summer evenings will be filled with more than just magic and fun for your little ones when they discover fireflies with Volunteer Naturalist Nancy Ryan.

Friday, June 17, 11am or 1pm

Tick Talk

Here's a great way for preschoolers to learn about some of the hazards we all face when we're outdoors enjoying a Missouri summer.

Saturday, June 18, 1pm

Tuesday, June 28, 11am or 1pm

Fish Gotta Swim

Have you ever wondered why fish are slimy? Can they see underwater? Find out the answers to these questions and more. Have fun "catching" your own fish, too!

Tuesday, June 21, 11am or 1pm